

# Limber Pine Engraver

Attacks branches and boles

**Name and Description**—*Ips woodi* Thatcher [Coleoptera: Curculionidae: Scolytinae]

The limber pine engraver is a common bark beetle in the central Rocky Mountains. The beetle is found across the range of limber pine, including in the states of Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming and in the province of Alberta, Canada. The beetle is approximately 1/8-1/5 inch (3.5-4.7 mm) long (fig. 1). The larva is a C-shaped, legless grub.

**Hosts**—Host trees for *I. woodi* include limber pine (fig. 2) and southwestern white pine. It seems likely that *I. woodi* also will infest Rocky Mountain bristlecone pine, which often occurs with limber pine at high elevations in the central Rocky Mountains, although this species is not listed as a host tree.

**Life Cycle**—There is no available information concerning the biology of *I. woodi*. Beetles have been observed attacking white pine blister rust-infected limber pine in spring, and brood beetles have been observed under the bark in late summer.

**Damage**—*Ips woodi* infests large limbs and boles of weakened or drought-stressed limber pines and fallen trees. The beetle is common in limber pines severely infected with white pine blister rust. The beetle also can be found in the upper crowns of limber pines attacked by the mountain pine beetle, *Dendroctonus ponderosae*. The galleries are typical *Ips* spp. galleries—longitudinal in orientation, resembling a narrow tuning fork.

**Management**—Although this bark beetle has not received much attention by entomologists, it is of some importance with regard to managing limber pines (fig. 3) for potential genetic resistance to white pine blister rust. Several limber pines have been identified with significant levels of resistance to this exotic fungal pathogen. Maintaining these trees in a healthy, cone-producing condition will be important in characterizing the source of this resistance.

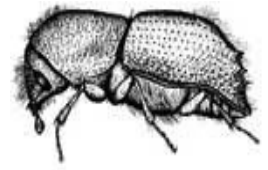


Figure 1. *Ips* spp. beetle adult. Image: Whitney Cranshaw and David Leatherman, Colorado State University.



Figure 2. Range of limber pine in western North America. Image: Anna Schoettle, USDA Forest Service.



Figure 3. Limber pine tree in Colorado. Photo: Anna Schoettle, USDA Forest Service.

1. Wood, S.L. 1982. The bark and ambrosia beetles of North and Central America (Coleoptera: Scolytidae), a taxonomic monograph. Great Basin Naturalist Memoir 6. 1359 p.